



Trenchless Excavation around Sewer Facilities

1. Follow all applicable portions of the State Corporation Commission's Rule 20VAC5-309-150, *Requirement for Trenchless Excavation*.



20VAC5-309-150. Requirement for trenchless excavation.

Any person conducting trenchless excavation shall take all reasonable steps necessary to protect and support underground utility lines. These steps shall include, but are not limited to the following:

1. The excavator should verify that all utility lines in the area are marked;
2. The excavator shall ensure that bore equipment stakes are installed at a safe distance from marked utility lines;
3. When grounding rods are used, the excavator shall ensure that they are installed at a safe distance (at least 24 inches plus the width of the utility line, if known) away from the marked or staked location of utility lines;
4. The excavator shall ensure sufficient clearance is maintained between the bore path and any underground utility lines during pullback;
5. The excavator shall give special consideration to water and sewer systems within the area that cannot be located accurately;
6. Unless prohibited by other laws, ordinances, regulations, or rules of governmental and regulatory authorities having jurisdiction, the excavator shall expose all utility lines which will be in the bore path by hand digging to establish the underground utility line's location prior to commencing bore. For a parallel type bore, unless prohibited by other laws, ordinances, regulations, or rules of governmental and regulatory authorities having jurisdiction, the excavator shall expose the utility line by hand digging at reasonable distances along the bore path;
7. The excavator shall ensure the drill head locating device is functioning properly and within its specification;
8. The excavator shall visually check the drill head as it passes through potholes, entrances, and exit pits; and
9. If the depth indicated by the locating device is lower than the bottom of the pothole or pit, the excavator shall cease boring until the hole/pit can be hand excavated further to maintain a visual inspection of the drill head.



Best Practices

2. Perform visual site inspection looking for clear evidence such as:
 - Old Marks.
 - Sewer cleanout, valve boxes, etc.



Best Practices



3. Review Miss Utility ticket responses for the presence of sewer facilities.
4. Always assume that sewer line laterals are present.
5. Determine the location of the main (sewer).
6. Attempt to contact homeowner/developer for location information.



Best Practices

7. If clear evidence is noted, try to locate lateral entrance and exit points at building to determine route.
8. Attempt to physically verify the location of the facility lateral using available equipment. (Fish Tape, Ground Penetrating Radar Locating Equipment, etc.)
9. Consult the operator of the sewer main for additional assistance.



Best Practices



10. Also be aware of:

- Changes in grass color, terrain and soil types. These changes often indicate a prior disturbance of soil.

- Patches in pavement that could indicate where utilities had been previously uncovered.



Best Practices

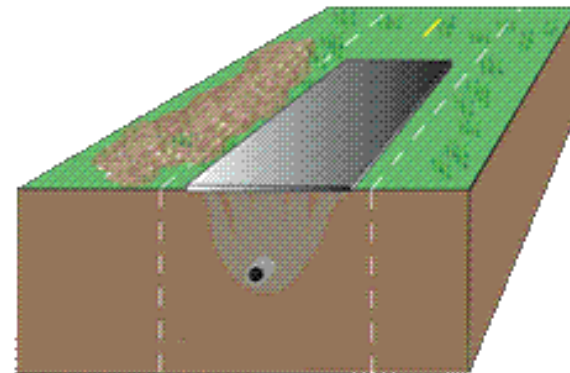
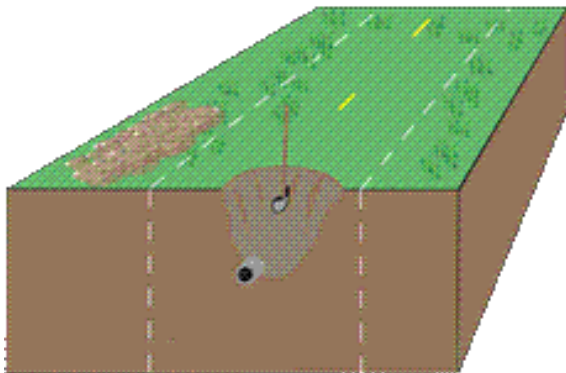
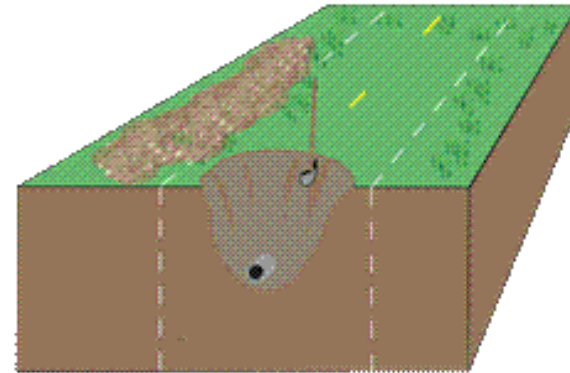
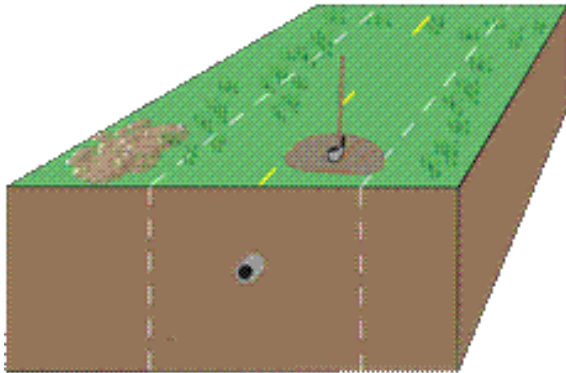
11. Prior to setting up any trenchless excavation operation, pothole all applicable utilities using the State Corporation Commission's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety's Hand Digging Best Practices and Impact Mole Best Practices.

http://www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/docs/exp_bp.pdf

http://www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/docs/imole_bp.pdf



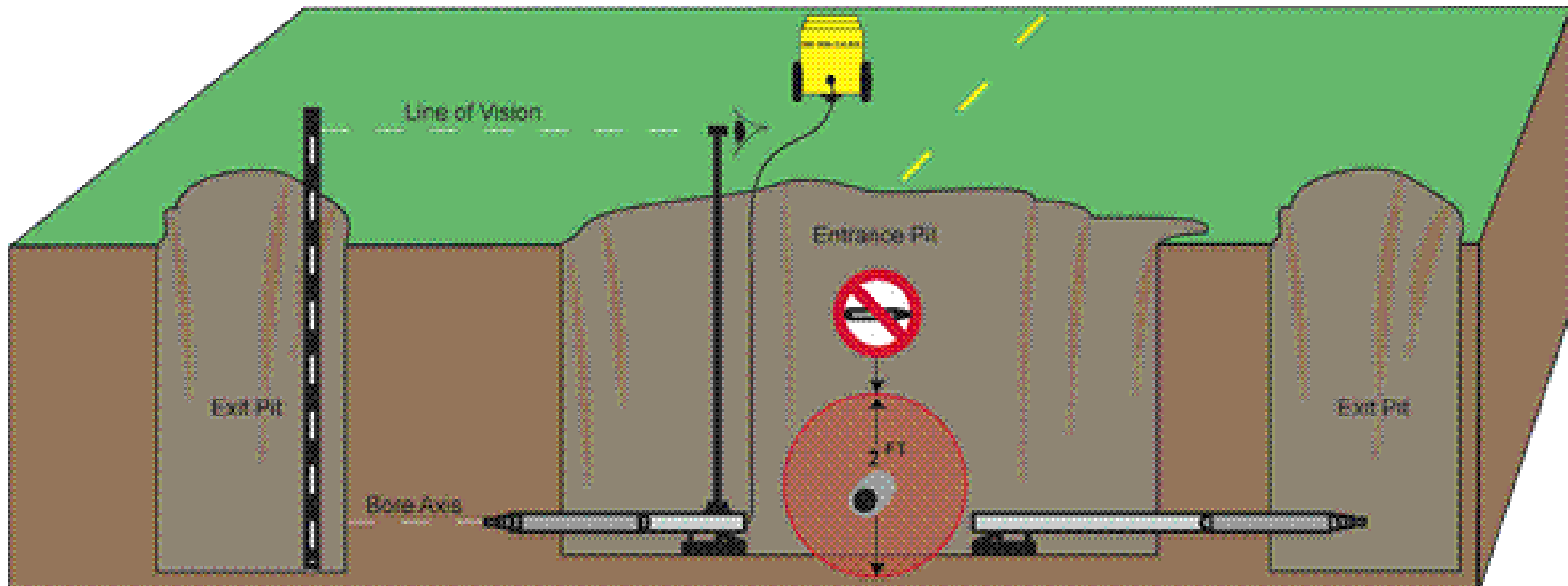
Hand Digging Best Practices





Best Practices

12. Maintain a two foot clearance zone from exposed utility lines and bore away from exposed utility line when possible.



The End